



David Dadekian  
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**Testimony in support of H 7259**

May 13, 2026

Honorable Chairperson Abney and the members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am the founder and president of Eat Drink RI, one of the top media and marketing companies in the region for all things culinary. As an advocate for our food system, a small business owner who wants to see our state's food and drink economy thrive, and as a citizen concerned about our changing climate and food insecurity, **I strongly support H 7259.**

Every year the RI Community Food Bank releases an annual status report on hunger, and every year it's shocking to see the number of Rhode Islanders who go hungry. **Thirty-eight per cent of Rhode Island households are facing food insecurity.** With the constant threat of funding cuts at the federal level and the reduced amount allocated to the Food Bank in the state budget, it's imperative that the Food Bank be funded as much as possible to combat hunger in our state.

Thank you to Representative Slater and his co-sponsors on H 7259. Respectfully, I urge you to pass H 7259 forward to the full House for passage this session. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David S. Dadekian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Dadekian